Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] One contingency that locking protocols must usually account for is failure of a processing node. Referring to Figure 1, for example, each of N processing nodes 105 within prior-art database system 100 may concurrently execute any number of processes that seek access to data in a shared data storage 101. In one possible sequence of events, a process executing on Node 1 acquires an exclusive lock to a shared data resource [[107]] 101 containing data D1 (indicated in Figure 1 by arrow I11); updates DI to produce D2 (112); records the update operation in a redo log 103 (113); then fails before D2 is written back to the data resource [[107]] 101, the non-operation being indicated by dashed line 114. In this failure scenario, subsequent access to the shared data storage is restricted to ensure that no operations are performed on the now stale data, D1, with the level of restriction depending on the nature of the locking protocol.